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STRANGE TALES™

TORR!

THE MOST
MURDEROUS
BEAST-
MAN
OF ALL!

LOOK AT
THIS PRINT!!
IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!
NOTHING
CAN BE SO
HUGE!!

TORR
CAN!QUIET!!
TORR MIGHT
BE
ANYWHERE!

STAN LEE PRESENTS **STRANGE TALES**

SPECIAL BULLPEN BULLETIN: NO, MONSTER-BUFFS, WE HAVEN'T DISCONTINUED OUR FLEDGLING FEAR-FILLED GOLEM SERIES! FAR FROM IT! BUT, OUR BRAND-NEW ARTIST THE TALENTED TONY DE ZUNIGA, LIVES IN THE FAR-OFF PHILIPPINES--AND NEEDED A COUPLE MORE MONTHS OF LEAD TIME SO THAT HE COULD MAKE HIS MARVEL DEBUT WITH A SMASH! WE CONCURRED--SO, MEANWHILE, HERE'S ANOTHER GIANT-SIZED GARGOYLE WHO'LL KEEP YOU SHUDDERING TILL NEXT--ISH! BUT THEN--WATCH OUT! AND NOW, HERE'S THE MACABRE MAN-MONSTER CALLED...

TORR

PART
1



ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN AMAZING ADVENTURES #1

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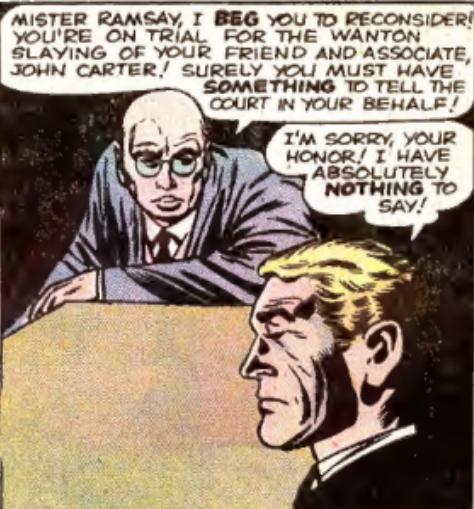
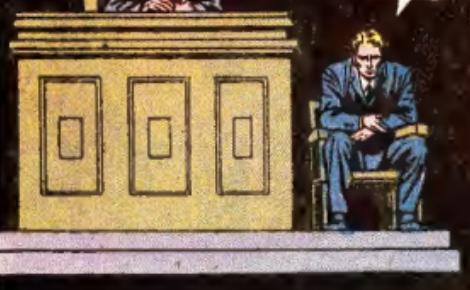
MY FIRST TIME IN A COURTROOM WAS THE WORST MOMENT OF MY LIFE... FOR I WAS THE DEFENDANT, AND THE CHARGE WAS... MURDER!

PAUL RAMSAY, ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO SAY IN YOUR OWN DEFENSE?

YES, YOUR HONOR, I'M CERTAIN!

MISTER RAMSAY, I BEG YOU TO RECONSIDER! YOU'RE ON TRIAL FOR THE WANTON SLAYING OF YOUR FRIEND AND ASSOCIATE, JOHN CARTER! SURELY YOU MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL THE COURT IN YOUR BEHALF!

I'M SORRY, YOUR HONOR! I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO SAY!



AND, WITH THAT REFUSAL I SEALED MY FATE! FOR NOW THERE WAS NO OPPPOSITION TO THE ICE-COLD, PIERCING WORDS OF THE PROSECUTOR AS HE STROVE TO SEND ME TO MY DOOM!

... AND I WILL PROVE THAT THE DEFENDANT DID WILFULLY, AND WITH MALICE AFORETHOUGHT, DRAW A LOADED REVOLVER AND SHOOT TO DEATH...



IF I COULD ONLY TELL THEM THE TRUTH... TELL THEM ABOUT HIM! BUT I CAN'T! I MUST KEEP FOREVER LOCKED IN MY HEART THE DREADFUL SECRET OF THE GREATEST MENACE THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN-- THE MENACE OF... TORR!



AS THE GRIM TRIAL PROCEEDED, MY MIND RACED BACK-- BACK TO THAT LONELY OBSERVATORY IN THE MOUNTAINS WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...

HOW ARE THE OUTER PLANETARY READINGS, PAUL?

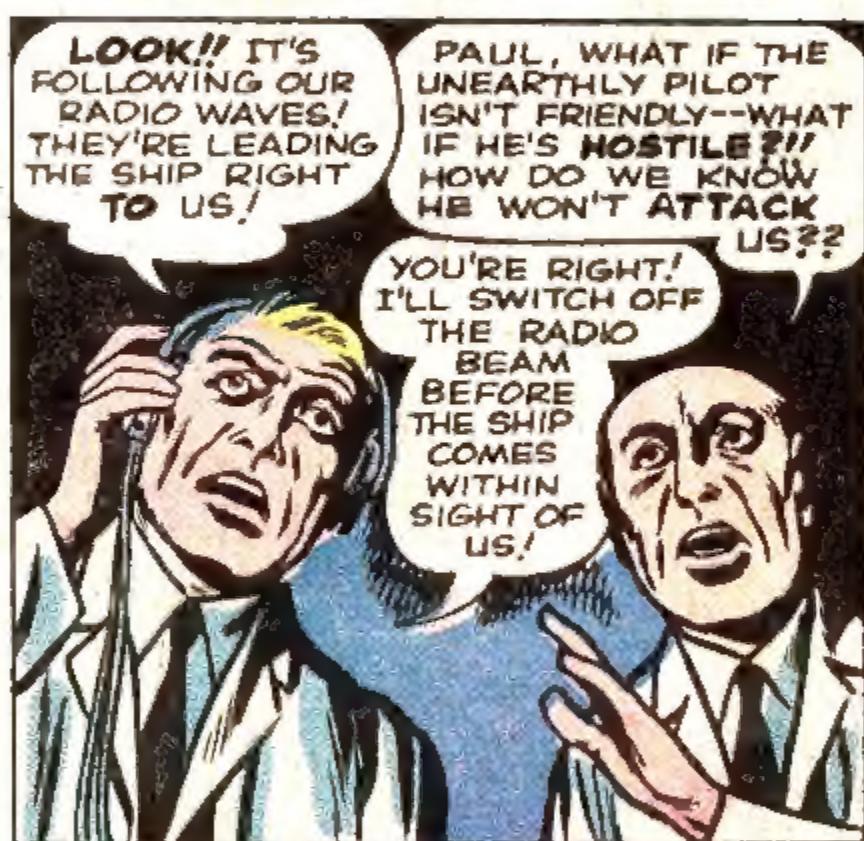
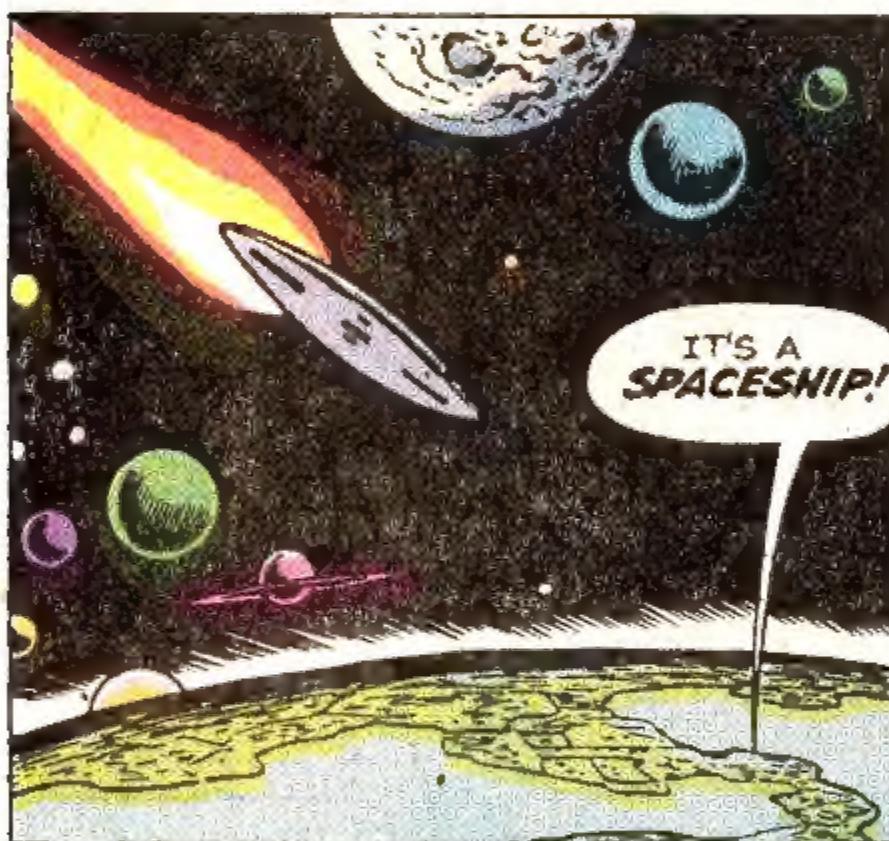
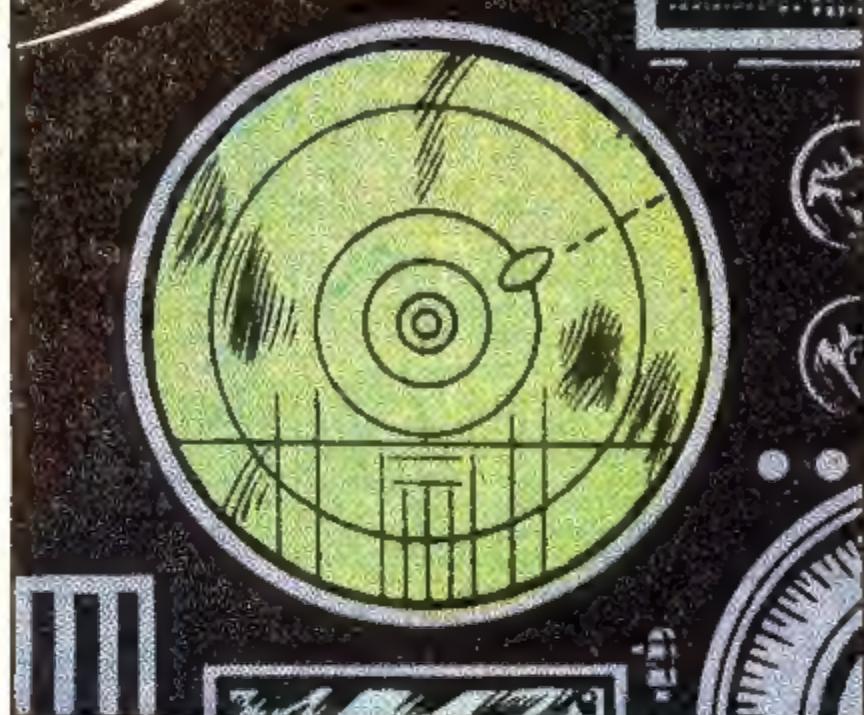


FOR DAYS, JOHN CARTER AND I SEARCHED THE FAR COSMIC REACHES, OBSERVING, STUDYING! THEN, ONE NIGHT...

JOHN, LOOK-- I'M TUNED IN ON SOMETHING! I THINK IT'S A NEW COMET!

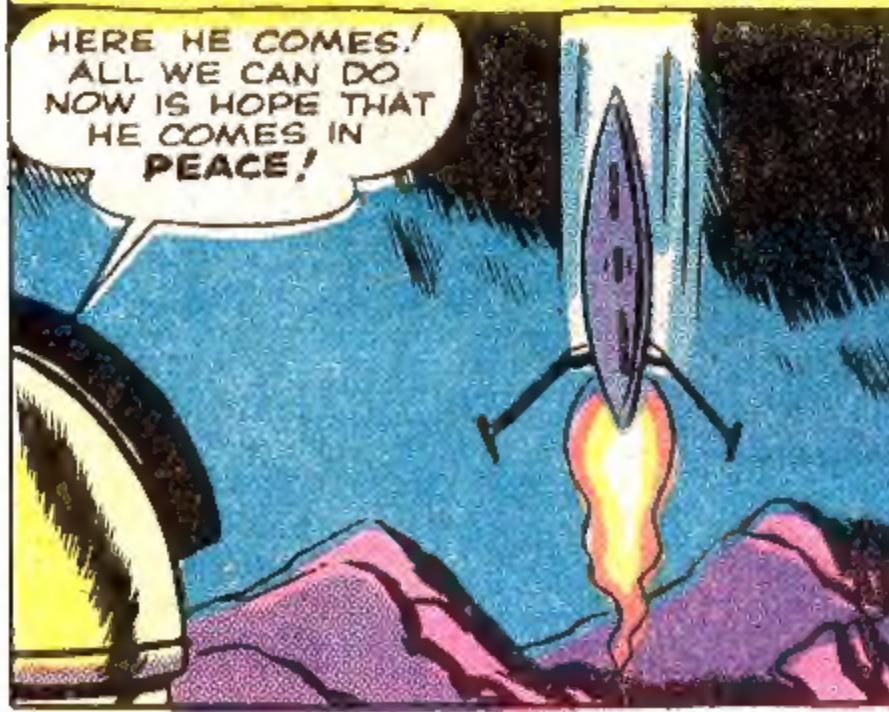


IT'S MOVING CLOSER! IT'S COMING TOWARD EARTH! HOLY SMOKE! IT'S NOT A COMET! IT'S A--



BUT I WAS TOO LATE! THE ALIEN HAD ALREADY SPOTTED US AND WAS BRINGING HIS SHIP IN FOR A LANDING!

HERE HE COMES! ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS HOPE THAT HE COMES IN PEACE!



WHEN THE POUNDING ENGINES STOPPED,
THE DOOR OPENED AND OUT CAME--TORR!!

HE--HE'S A MONSTER!!

QUICK!!
BACK TO THE
OBSERVATORY!
WE'LL LOCK
OURSELVES
IN!

FOR A MOMENT THE GIANT ALIEN LOOKED
AROUND, THEN, HE LUMBERED CLOSER
AND CLOSER TO US, UNTIL...

THUD!

THUD!

THUD!

WILL THE DOOR
HOLD?

IT
HAS
TO!!
IT
HAS
TO!



BUT
EARTH
BELONGS
TO US!!
YOU CAN'T
JUST TAKE
IT OVER!!!
MANKIND
WON'T
LET
YOU!!

MEN WILL HAVE NOTHING TO SAY
IN THE MATTER! WITH MY SUPERIOR
INTELLIGENCE, MY MENTAL AND
PHYSICAL POWERS, I SHALL
CONQUER AND SUBJUGATE
YOUR RACE AS I WOULD
ANY OTHER LOWLY
LIFE FORM!

THE
SHOTGUN!
I HAD
FORGOTTEN
ABOUT
IT!

IT'S OUR ONE
CHANCE!



BEFORE TORR COULD STOP ME,
I REACHED THE GUN, AIMED IT
SQUARELY AT HIS MASSIVE CHEST,
AND FIRED!

IN THE NAME
OF THE
PLANET
EARTH!!



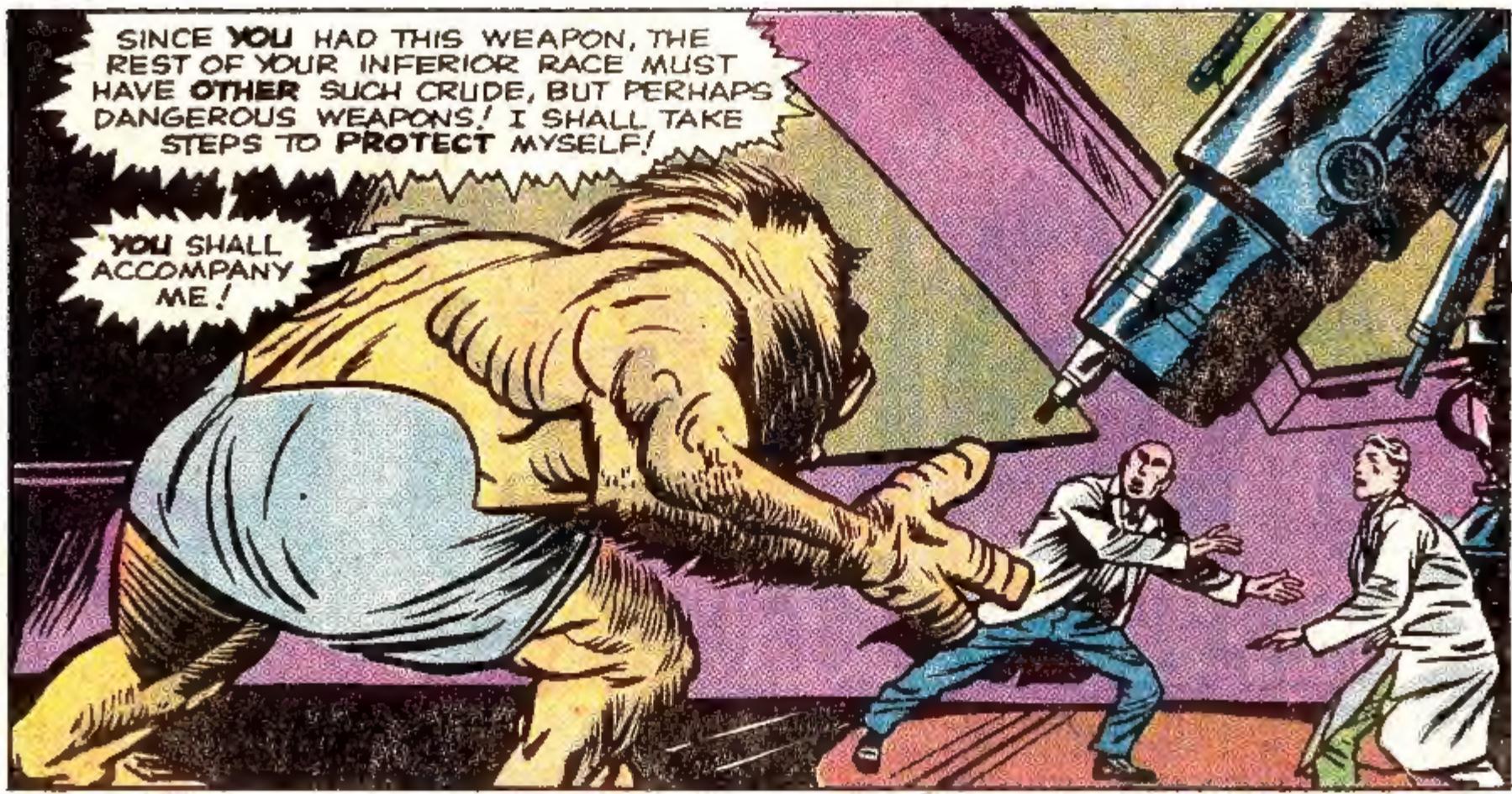
BUT THE SHOT MERELY GRAZED HIS
HEAVY HIDE! HE REACTED TO IT THE
WAY A HUMAN WOULD REACT TO A
MOSQUITO BITE!

PUNY THOUGH
THEY ARE,
PRIMITIVE
WEAPONS
CAN BE
IRRITATING!



...AND TORR WILL
NOT BE IRRITATED!





AND BEFORE JOHN AND I COULD RUN, THE POWERFUL ALIEN SCOOPED US UP LIKE TWO POTATO SACKS, AND HEADED FOR THE DOOR!



BUT OUR CRIES WERE USELESS! TORR CARRIED US OUTSIDE THE OBSERVATORY AND INTO A NEARBY CAVE!



TORR! PART 2

ALONE IN THE CAVE WITH US, TORR ANNOUNCED HIS FANTASTIC INTENTIONS!

BEFORE I ATTACK YOUR CIVILIZATION, I WANT TO EXAMINE IT. BUT I DO NOT WISH TO ATTRACT ATTENTION, SO I SHALL ALTER MY APPEARANCE! I SHALL CHANGE BODIES WITH YOU!

CHANGE BODIES?!
N-NO!
YOU CAN'T!

SUCH A FEAT
WOULD BE
IMPOSSIBLE!

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE
FOR THE MIGHTY TORR!
WATCH, EARTHLINGS!
WATCH!

UHH--I--I
FEEL SO
STRANGE!
SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING
TO ME!!

THE VERY ESSENCE OF MY PERSONALITY IS LEAVING MY BODY, AS YOURS IS! SOON-- SOON THEY WILL CHANGE PLACES! BEHOLD--!

IF YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS
...WHAT CHANCE DOES MANKIND HAVE?

IT'S BEYOND BELIEF!!
TWO LIVING PERSONALITIES
-- CHANGING PLACES!

ART: JACK
KIRBY
& DICK
AYERS

YOUR PERSONALITY SHALL TAKE
MY BODY AND MY PERSONALITY SHALL
TAKE YOURS!



FRANTIC WITH FEAR, JOHN RUSHED TO THE
ENTRANCE WHERE HE TRIED DESPERATELY
TO REMOVE THE HUGE BOULDER...



AND THEN... IT WAS DONE!



WHEN IT WAS OVER, THE MALEVOLENT
TORR HAD COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THE
HUMAN BODY OF JOHN CARTER!



SO POWERFUL WAS TORR'S WILL, THAT
EVEN NOW HE WAS ABLE TO COMMAND
HIS REAL BODY!



AND THOUGH JOHN NOW DWELLED IN TORR'S
HULKING BODY, HE HAD NOT THE STRENGTH
TO CONTROL IT!



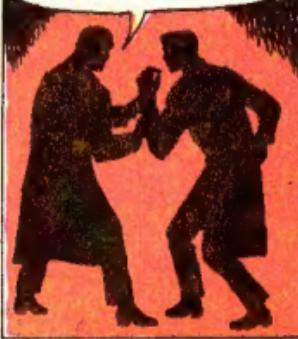
WHEN TORR AND I LEFT THE CAVE, HE GAVE ME A GRIM WARNING...!

DO NOT THINK THAT NOW, BECAUSE I EMPLOY THE PUNY BODY OF AN EARTHLING, I WOULD BE VULNERABLE TO YOUR ATTACK! I WOULD STILL DEFEAT YOU, FOR I POSSESS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL IN THE ART OF PHYSICAL COMBAT WHICH IS FAR SUPERIOR TO YOURS!

AND IN CASE YOU HOPE TO ESCAPE AND INFORM THE AUTHORITIES ABOUT ME, THIS SMALL INSTRUMENT WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND! GIVE ME YOUR WRIST!



THIS DEVICE WHICH I AM SEALING TO YOUR WRIST IS ELECTROMAGNETICALLY CONTROLLED! IT CANNOT BE REMOVED WITHOUT MY COMMAND! SHOULD YOU DARE REVEAL THE TRUTH ABOUT ME TO ANYONE, THE INSTRUMENT WILL SEND A SIGNAL...



...A SIGNAL THAT WILL TRAVEL TO MY WORLD AND GIVE THE EXACT LOCATION OF EARTH! THEN SHALL MY BROTHERS COME, AND INSTEAD OF ONE TORR, EARTH WILL SUFFER TEN THOUSAND TORRS!



BUT ENOUGH! TIME IS PASSING AND I GROW IMPATIENT! YOU WILL TAKE ME TO YOUR GREATEST CITY, WHERE I WILL OBSERVE AND STUDY THE WAYS OF YOU HUMANS, BEFORE I LAUNCH MY FIRST ASSAULT!



THREE HOURS LATER, THE DISGUISED ALIEN AND I WERE IN NEW YORK CITY...!

SO THIS IS YOUR CIVILIZATION! IT IS MORE PRIMITIVE THAN I EXPECTED!

WE'RE NOT AS INFERIOR AS YOU THINK WE ARE! IF YOU ATTACK US, WE'LL FIGHT BACK-HARD!



BAH! I CAN SEE IT NOW! THE MOMENT I ENTER YOUR CITY... YOU PUNY HUMANS WILL FLEE IN PANIC!



MY ONLY WEAPON AGAINST YOU IS THE HYPNO-ILLUSION CAPSULES I MADE. BREAK THEM RELEASES THE GAS THAT

MY BRAIN AND NERVOUS SYSTEM ARE IMMUNE TO THESE VAPORS BUT HUMANS ARE NOT EARTHLYINGS. FOR YOU THERE IS NO ED APE! HA HA HA



THE APPALING ILLUSIONS WILL MOUNT UNTIL ALL REALITY CHANGES INTO ONE AND IS THAT A NIGHTMARE?



SOON THE HYPO-ILLUSION WILL AUSE ALL HUMANS! IT WILL MAKE THE WORLD A FANTASTIC WORL



AND BY THE TIME THE HYPO-ILLUSION EFFECT OF THE VAPOR WEARS OFF, YOU PEOPLE WILL BE AS I WANT THEM. RELEASE ME, AND PLEASE!



THEN, AFTER I DEFEAT NEW YORK,
I SHALL REPEAT THAT SCENE IN
CITIES THROUGHOUT THIS NATION --
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD --
UNTIL I HAVE CONQUERED
ALL EARTH!!

YOU -- YOU
MUST BE
MAD!

MAD? BY EARTH'S STANDARDS,
PERHAPS I AM MAD! BUT NOT
BY THE HARSH, RUTHLESS STANDARDS
OF MY WORLD! BY THOSE STANDARDS
I AM A GREAT FEARLESS WARRIOR,
WHO GIVES NO QUARTER AND ASKS
NONE ... WHO CONQUERS ALL!

AND AFTER
YOU CONQUER
US, WHAT
THEN ??

"THEN I WILL SUBJUGATE YOU! I WILL MAKE
ALL MANKIND WORK FOR ME!"

HURRY, HUMANS, BUILD -- BUILD
THE MIGHTY TERRA A CITY WORTHY
OF HIS
GREATNESS!



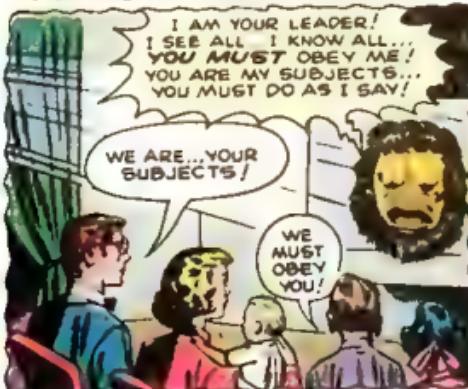
"AND TO INSURE YOUR LOYALTY, I SHALL
CREATE A PROPAGANDA MACHINE BEYOND
ANYTHING EARTH HAS EVER KNOWN!"

I AM YOUR LEADER!
I SEE ALL I KNOW ALL...
YOU MUST OBEY ME!
YOU ARE MY SUBJECTS...
YOU MUST DO AS I SAY!

WE ARE...YOUR
SUBJECTS!

WE
MUST
OBEY
YOU!

"AND FINALLY, I SHALL TURN EARTH INTO A
COLONY FOR MY OWN WORLD... A COLONY THAT
WILL DEVOTE ALL ITS ENERGIES TO SERVING
THE MOTHER PLANET!"



THAT GROWTH SERUM WE SENT YOU HAS IMPROVED THE EARTH CROPS!

WE OF THE MOTHER PLANET WILL NOW HAVE ENOUGH FOOD! THERE MAY EVEN BE SOME LEFT OVER FOR YOUR SUBJECTS!

NO! HALF RATIONS ARE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THOSE HELPLESS HUMANS!

THE MORE TORR SPOKE, THE MORE INCREDIBLY GRIM WAS THE PICTURE HE PAINTED, AND THE MORE DETERMINED WAS I TO PREVENT IT FROM MATERIALIZING! BUT I HAD NO MEANS -- NO WAY TO STOP HIM -- UNTIL...

WITHOUT ANOTHER MOMENT'S HESITATION, I GRABBED THE OFFICER'S LOADED REVOLVER!

YOUR EVIL SCHEMES WILL NEVER COME TO PASS, TORR! NEVER!

WHA--?! P-PUT THAT DOWN!

HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOIN'?!

THE POLICEMAN'S GUN!! LAST TIME, WHEN I SHOT TORR, HIS HIDE WAS TOO THICK, TOO STRONG TO BE PENETRATED... BUT NOW HE'S IN A HUMAN BODY! NOW PERHAPS HE CAN BE INJURED!



I'M SAVING THE WORLD!

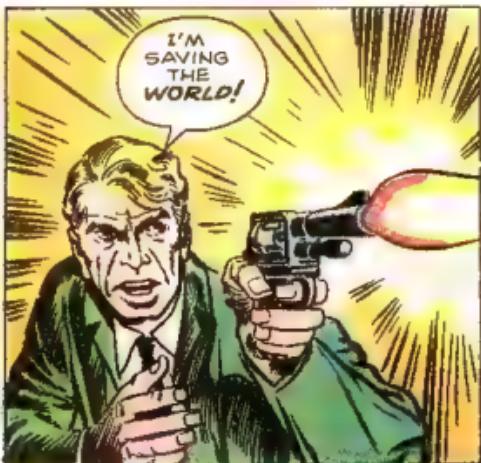
WHAT HAPPENED?

I DESTROYED TORR! EARTH IS SAFE!

THAT GUY JUST SHOT A MAN!

YEAH, AN' FOR NO REASON AT ALL!

THE GUY MUST BE A REAL NUT!



AFTER THAT, THINGS MOVED SWIFTLY AND SURELY! I SOON FOUND MYSELF IN COURT! I WAS THE DEFENDANT, AND THE CHARGE WAS ... MURDER!

BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN THE NEARBY CITY HOSPITAL, AN AWESOME THING WAS HAPPENING...

I CAN'T SPEAK IN MY BEHALF! I CAN'T TELL THEM WHY I SHOT JOHN! IF I DO, THIS INSTRUMENT, SEALED TO MY WRIST, WILL CONTACT TORR'S PLANET AND CAUSE THOUSANDS LIKE TORR TO COME TO EARTH! MANKIND WON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THEM!

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST -- T-THE SHEET IS 'M-MOVING!!



I'M BACK BACK
WITHIN MY OWN BODY
AGAIN!

OHMM!

AND WHEN THE TRIAL WAS OVER WHEN
THE JURY HAD REACHED THEIR VERDICT

WE THE JURY, FIND
THE DEFENDANT,
PAUL RAMSEY--

STOP! STOP
THE TRIAL!!

GREAT SCOTT,
IT'S JOHN CARTER!!

BUT HE'S
THE VICTIM!
HE'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE--

I AM
ALIVE!

PAUL
WANTS
TO BE
INNOCENT!

AND SO I WAS SAVED! FOR JOHN TOLD
THE COURT THE TRUE STORY WHICH I WAS
UNABLE TO TELL!

PAUL DIDN'T
KILL ME!
HE SHOT THE
ALIEN BEAST
WHO WAS
CONTROLLING
MY BODY!

JOHN'S TESTIMONY BROUGHT MY ACQUITTAL,
AND SOON AFTERWARDS, WE WENT BACK TO
THE MOUNTAINS TO VIEW THE REMAINS OF
THE ONCE MIGHTY TORR!

YOUR BULLET KILLED TORR'S
PERSONALITY WHICH HAD
TAKEN OVER MY BODY! ONCE
THAT HAPPENED THE SPELL
WAS BROKEN, AND SLOWLY
WE CHANGED BACK TO OUR
RIGHTFUL FORMS! AND SO,
HE DIED AS--TORR!

AND, WITH THE DEATH OF TORR, HIS WILL
WAS BROKEN! THUS, THE INSTRUMENT ON
MY WRIST FINALLY CRUMPLED INTO DUST!
NOW THE STORY OF TORR IS FINISHED AT
LAST! AND I PRAY THAT IT IS FINISHED
FOREVER!

DO YOU THINK
ANY OF TORR'S
RACE WILL EVER
AGAIN REACH
EARTH?

THERE'S ONLY
ONE CHANCE IN A
BILLION OF THEM
EVER FINDING US
AGAIN! BUT IF
THEY DO COME
WE'LL BE READY
NOW!

THE END

OF MIX-UPS, MONSTERS, AND MATRIMONY!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Remember last ish? Remember the promise I made you? I said I'd hit you with the most eagerly awaited announcement of the year right? Well, you've probably guessed it by now, 'cause we've been mentioning it and hinting at it for months. I'm talking, natch, about our most important single publication—the one you've been clamoring for all these years! It's not a magazine but a real, honest-to-Forbush book—destined to become the most prized best seller of the decade! The title tells you the whole bit—THE ORIGIN OF MARVEL COMICS! It's a prestige library edition, published by Simon and Schuster, scheduled to go on sale in bookstores throughout the free world some time in October! We're not sure of the price yet but it won't be cheap—so start saving your shekels, sahib! It's bigger than 200 pages, containing the unabridged origins of The Fantastic Four, Spidey, The Hulk, and more, more, more—handsomely printed in rich, full, glorious color! Also, not only does it contain the most anxiously-awaited strips of all time, but you'll also find page after page of behind-the-scenes bombshells giving you the real, uncensored scoop on how Marvel Comics was born! Every page is dynamite—and every word is true! I oughta know—I'm the guy who wrote it! It names names and spares no punches! THE ORIGIN OF MARVEL COMICS—is on sale this fall! If you've a bad memory, don't worry about it. There's always the chance that we'll remind you again in the next few months. (Like on every other page!) Oh, and before I forget—let me toss a word of appreciation to the wonderful gang at Worcester Polytech University in Massachusetts for the rollicking reception they gave me a few weeks ago. I couldn't tell if they were applauding my speech or stompin' to keep warm, but it was a blast no matter what! And now, till we meet again, think peace—think love—think Marvel! It could be habit forming. *Esccior!*

ITEM! Special last minute announcement! Our 35¢ and 60¢ mags have gone the way of all flesh! In other words, we're discontinuing 'em! But, before you gulp that cyanide pill, friend, let us hasten to clue you in—we're just switching all our over sized epics to one size, one price just 50¢ for 68 big pages, with a feature-length 30 page all new spectacular in almost every one of our nine

Giant Size titles! Confused? Well, for the full fabulous details, you'll have to pick up this month's GIANT SIZE SPIDER-MAN #1 (co-starring DRACULA, who else?)—GIANT SIZE DEFENDERS #1, GIANT SIZE AVENGERS #1, or whatever else we happen to toss atcha! Then you'll know at least as much about this dramatic change over as we do—and take it from us, that ain't much, effendi! **ITEM!** This is it! The month when we present a dynamite new feature which starts in the current issue of ASTONISHING TALES, now on sale! First, though, that fabled picture-worth a thousand words



Okay, now that you've taken a gander at what our newest, maybe most offbeat hero yet looks like, we'll fill you in: He's DEATHLOK, THE DEMOLISHER—and he's part cyborg, part superhero, and maybe just a touch of monster all rolled up into one pulsating package by RICH (Swash) BUCKLER, who conceived and drew the awesome origin tale and Devil-May Care DOUG MOENCH, who supplied some of the most unique scripting we've seen in a month of Mondays! Quite frankly, we think Deathlok's gonna take the waiting world by storm—and that's no hype! Pick up ASTONISHING TALES #25, and see for yourself why 1974 is already being heralded as THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS—PHASE TWO! We're shifting into high gear, troops—but we're not going anywhere without you!

ITEM! Hey, guess what! Looking over our ever-frenetic schedule, we just noticed that this is the first time in many moons that we're not introducing any new mags—with the exception of a couple of 50¢ extravaganzas, and if you don't count one Deathlok, the Demolisher—which, now that we think of it, doesn't leave us exactly standing still! Fact is, we're just slowing down to catch our breath for a little while, as we consolidate our line of 25¢ and 50¢ color comics—our 75¢ magazine masterpieces—our 40¢ CRAZY fun fest—that forthcoming Marvel Origins Book that Smiley told you about earlier—and a couple of other projects we can't even mention yet (mainly 'cause right now we can't remember what they are)! But, a few short weeks from now, don't be too surprised if it turns out we had another inspiration or three up our sleeve hear?

MARVELOUS MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! Wed ding bells are waking up that Bullpen Gang of ours! First over the Christmas holidays, it was Marriage Minded MURRAY FRIEDMAN, our hard working Assistant Production Manager who specializes in our 75¢ mags, to his lovely ADRIENNE (who, weirdly enough, is a former Hunter College lab partner of Rascally ROY Sownwfe JEAN! • Then, come January, Merry GERRY CONWAY took a couple of days off from his super hero scripting to tie the nubbin knot with Cute CARLA JOSEPH, Roy's super-secretary and general Gal Friday Between Ger, who writes several of our mags a month (plus occasional science-fiction paperbacks, including a forth coming series or two), and Carla, who's an off Broadway playwright in between her many Marvel chores: we've got a feeling that the Conways' neighbors on Manhattan's West Side are gonna be driven out of their skulls by the sound of two twin typewriters clackin' away night and day! Anyway, best wishes both to GERRY and CARLA, and to MURRAY and ADRIENNE—and somebody help our poor editor pick all that rice out of his shoes, willya?

ITEM THE LAST! Next time around, we'll mention several more block bustin' bargains you can get once you've amassed a complete set of our much praised, much clipped MARVEL VALUE STAMPS! But, for now, we've just got room enough left to mention a few of our mammoth sized mags. So, till then—Save Energy! *Subscribe, Already!*

MIGHTY MARVEL MINI-CHECKLIST

Now On Sale!

GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN #1: Spidey meets Dracula—or does he? The answer's all yours—for just 50¢!

GIANT-SIZE MAN-THING #1: As if the macabre Man-Thing weren't enough—re-enter the Hulk's old nemesis, the Blob! A 50¢ fear fest!

GIANT-SIZE FANTASTIC FOUR #2: The fabulous FF—lost in the untraveled paths of time! Plus—50¢ worth of features and fantasy!

DRACULA LIVES #7: She pirates! The mysterious Death Man! All this—plus the undisputed King of Vampires! 75¢—and sensational!

ZOMBIE #6: The Zombie strikes again! And so does Brother Voodool Six bits worth of supernatural thrills!

HAUNT OF HORROR #2: Special Exorcism Issue! Meet the man called Gabriel—DEVIL HUNTER! All this and Satana, too—for just 75¢!

SAVAGE TALES #5: Red Sonja is back—and Conan's got her! Two titanic, timeless tales of swords and sorcery—plus phantasmagorical features—for only 75¢!

MIDNIGHT *IN THE* WAX MUSEUM



A MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINAL IS CAUGHT RED HANDED-- AND THUS BEGINS OUR TALE!

THIS FINISHES YOU, LA ROC! ...OHHH!

NO ONE CAPTURES PIERRE LA ROC!

I SHALL NEVER BE SENT TO PRISON AGAIN! OUT OF MY WAY!!

THIS FOG HELPS, BUT THE AREA WILL SOON BE CRAWLING WITH POLICE! I MUST QUICKLY FIND A PLACE TO HIDE!



HE MIGHT HAVE RUN IN
HERE! SEARCH THE PLACE
THOROUGHLY!

I MUSTN'T
MOVE!
MUSTN'T
MOVE!

WE WASTE OUR
TIME! THE
MUSEUM IS
DESERTED!!
LET US
SEARCH
ELSEWHERE!

I
DID
IT
...

THEY'RE GONE! ALL I NEED
DO NOW IS SPEND THE
NIGHT SAFELY HERE, AND
LOSE MYSELF IN THE CROWD
WHEN MORNING COMES!

BOOM! BOOM!

THAT NOISE!!
WHA--??

ONLY A MECHANICAL
CLOCK!! THIS PLACE
IS FILLED WITH STRANGE
NOISES AND SHADOWS!
I'LL BE GLAD WHEN
THE NIGHT
ENDS!

I'VE GOT TO
CONTROL MY
NERVES!
I COULD
HAVE
SWORN THAT
FIGURE
MOVED!

NO! I--I
MUST BE
GOING
MAD!

IT--IT
IS
JUST
MIDNIGHT!





ATTENTION, LITERATURE-LOVERS! WE INTERRUPT THIS
BULLPEN BONUS PAGE
TO BRING YOU THIS AWESOME ANNOUNCEMENT!

MARVEL

PRESENTS THE

FIRST

OF ITS
SENSATIONAL NEW

50¢

GIANTS!

Featuring:

COUNT

DRACULA!

and the
FLAMING,
FIGHTING-MAN

HUMAN TORCH!

-- BOTH COLORFULLY
CAVORTING IN
CONTINUAL COMBAT
WITH OUR OWN
WONDROUS

WEB-SPINNER!
(ALL THIS - PLUS
SURPRISE FEATURES
TO BOOT!)

ON SALE

FOR ONLY

50¢

- AND WORTH
EVERY
SHEKEL!



AND HERE'S A PULSATING POSTSCRIPT:

MAY AND JUNE WILL HERALD THE AWESOMELY-AWAITED ARRIVAL OF
THIS TITANIC TITLE'S TWIN COMPANION-MAGS--

GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS and **GIANT-SIZE CONAN!**

'NUFF SAID!

HELP!!

TWEET!



PUT ME IN PRISON! LOCK ME UP FOREVER! PROTECT ME FROM THE WAX CREATURES! THEY'RE AFTER ME! YOU'VE GOT TO LOCK ME UP -- YOU'VE GOT TO!!

WAX CREATURES?
AFTER
YOU?



IRONIC, IS IT NOT? HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SAFE FROM ARREST, BUT HIS IMAGINATION GOT THE BEST OF HIM! HIS CONSCIENCE MUST HAVE MADE HIM IMAGINE THE WAX FIGURES WERE PURSUING HIM!



YOU ARE RIGHT, OFFICER! A MAN'S IMAGINATION CAN PLAY FANTASTIC TRICKS ON HIS BRAIN!



IMAGINATION CAN MAKE A MAN THINK HE SEES THE IMPOSSIBLE! BUT THEN HIS BRAIN TELLS HIM IT IS NOT SO!



FOR THE AVERAGE BRAIN CANNOT BELIEVE THAT ANY OTHER TYPE OF HUMAN LIFE CAN EXIST...



SOME DAY PERHAPS, THEY WILL LEARN THE TRUTH, BUT--



UNTIL THAT DAY--



...OUR SECRET IS SAFE!



THE END

VOODOO MAIL!

10 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Were-Marvel,

Moving BROTHER VOODOO to the pages of TALES OF THE ZOMBIE is a good move. I'd rather see real walking dead instead of A.I.M. fakes! But I hope Brother Voodoo's move does not push Simon Garth out of the ZOMBIE mag. I enjoy them both.

You have a unique character in Brother Voodoo. Use him wisely: he could become one of your most renowned creations. Len Wein has taken a good turn with the "Horalee Tate Trilogy" and the introduction of the Black Talon. And that mystical and ethereal pencilling by Gene Colan! Has anyone ever told him how good he is? The scenes with Mama Limbo...Voodoo's appearance and disappearance with Desmond Drew...and the scenes on page 18 of STRANGE TALES #173 were all drawn exceptionally well! Praise to inker Dick Giordano, also.

Brian Wilkes Prescott
132 Bonair Ave.

W. Springfield, Ma. 01089

For the benefit of new STRANGE TALES readers—who, having just finished reading the second tale of THE GOLEM, may be utterly bewildered by the above letter—the feature which preceded THE GOLEM in this magazine, specifically in issues 169 through 173, was that ever-popular Man Who Lived Twice, the Lord of the Loa himself, Dr. Jericho Drumm, Brother Voodoo! And since the first GOLEM escapade is just hitting the stands as this page goes to press, making it virtually impossible for the non-clairvoyants in the audience to have seen it and written us about it, our letters section this issue concerns the last STRANGE TALES appearance of the good Dr. Drumm.

Having made that as clear as the water in Man-Thing's swamp, let us convey to Mr. Prescott the sincere thanks of Len Wein, Gene Colan, and Dick Giordano, the BROTHER VOODOO creative crew, and move relentlessly onward to more of your comments and ours.

O Dabblers in Mysticism (Roy, Len, Gene, etc.),

Hooray! Hooray! Brother Voodoo is moving to a comic worthy of his poise, power, skill, and snazzy hairdo. Very good move, you guys. What better place for Brother Voodoo than TALES OF THE ZOMBIE, a black-and-white magazine that just fits the mood with its dark panels and grey shadows. Also, this makes room for another Marvel superstar in STRANGE TALES. It is also to be hoped that it will allow Gene Colan to move back to DAREDEVIL, where he is sorely missed.

Until Stan and Roy dabble in the occult, please MAKE MINE MARVEL!! FOOM!

Tim Fish
R.R. #1
Paint Lick, Ky. 40481

Gene did manage to squeeze in a couple fill-in issues of DAREDEVIL, Tim, but it looks now as if, rather than moving back to that book, the genial Mr. Colan will be assuming the artistic reins on, of all things, WAR OF THE WORLDS and possibly SON OF SATAN! Gene has a deep, abiding affection for DD, but after pencilling the adventures of that horn-headed hero for over six years, he simply decided it was time to move on to something different. (He claims his hands were starting to twitch in "double-D" patterns from having drawn Daredevil's chest insignia so many hundreds of times.) Understandable, no? And let's face it, the adven-

tures of Killraven in WAR OF THE WORLDS and the demonic bedazzlement of Daimon Hellstrom in SON OF SATAN are about as different as they come.

But fear not. DAREDEVIL is now in the very capable hands of Bob Brown, and on those rare occasions when Bob can't do an issue, Gene seems more than willing to help out. So everybody wins.

(We're withholding our TALES OF THE ZOMBIE plug 'till after the next letter...and its rather uncommon negative reaction to our black-and-white line of magazines.)

Dear Marvel,

I have greatly enjoyed the five issues of BROTHER VOODOO that you gave us and am grieved by the announcement that he is losing his position in STRANGE TALES. I refuse to buy any of your 75-cent black-and-white rip-offs! They are worse than your bogus monster mags. I will continue, however, to purchase your superheroes and those similar, i.e. KULL and CONAN. I offer my congratulations on the high quality of AVENGERS, DEFENDERS, POWER MAN, and your latest addition, MASTER OF KUNG FU. I dream of the day this high quality is used to give us Elric and "Star Trek"! Along with the return of Brother Voodoo! Thank you for a lifetime of reading enjoyment.

Michael Peter Langevin
1 Reservoir St.
Lawrence, Mass.



"Black-and-white rip-offs"? Are we talking about the same line of mags, Mike?

It's possible, of course, and we readily acknowledge it, that not all our readers are going to like our black-and-white magazines...or that there will be some who like certain titles and not others...just as there will be some who actually prefer the b&w mags to the standard four-color comics, and vice-versa. But rip-offs? No way!

These new magazines have featured some of the best stories and art Marvel has ever published, and in the relatively short time they've been around, they've become immensely popular. In fact, their success has even surprised us; we expected it to take quite a while for them to catch on. It didn't.



And we think, as Tim Fish and Brian Prescott mentioned in their letters, that TALES OF THE ZOMBIE, our voodoo-oriented b&w, is the perfect place for us to continue Brother Voodoo's adventures. Talk about two wildly contrasting features! The stark, sullen solemnity of the Zombie, Simon Garth...paired with the vibrant, vigorous, life-loving Jericho Drumm! It's hard to conceive of a more interesting duet of series for one magazine. All that...plus the text articles, news columns, and prose fiction that are a regular part of each issue make for a pretty exciting magazine, in our opinion.

We repeat: rip-off? No way!

And, incidentally, that goes for all our other black-and-white mags as well: the newly revamped HAUNT OF HORROR...the macabre MONSTERS UNLEASHED...the dazzling DRACULA LIVES!...the superb SAVAGE TALES...the swinging DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU...the blood-curdling VAMPIRE TALES...and the most frightening mag of them all— CRAZY!

If you haven't sampled them yet, friends, you're missing a great deal.

Dear Messrs. Thomas and Wein,

I'm not really qualified to pass judgment on this book since I only have issues 171-173. Still, some things are clear even to a casual reader.

A. The artwork of Gene Colan is very good. He has just the right touch for the book.

B. The writing of Len Wein is very, very good.

In fact, everything connected with BROTHER VOODOO is very good. But I thought that in New Orleans and Haitian voodoo, the woman was the officiator at ceremonies, but

perhaps my sources are inaccurate. Still, I would like to see Brother Voodoo either teamed with a Mamaloi or opposed to one.)

I'm glad Brother Voodoo is moving to TALES OF THE ZOMBIE. It is a better place for the series.

I would like to know what the Comics Code has against using zombies in your color comic books. I mean, how are they different from vampires, werewolves, or the Frankenstein Monster?

Ms. Mattie Jones
1013 East Crockett
Hartlin, Texas 48550

Presumably, Mattie, because of their horrific appearance—and the fact that they are walking dead people, which is, you must admit, not exactly an appetizing concept—zombies are considered inappropriate for use in Code-approved magazines. Vampires, werewolves, and Frankie, despite the fact that they, too, are pretty frightening, still look more or less like living beings, and we think that's the major distinction. (Quite a few readers have asked about that point, however, and we'd be interested to know whether or not you people agree or disagree with the Code on this matter—and why.)

As for who conducts a voodoo ceremony, the priest (or houngan, as they're called) or the priestess (mambo), ZOMBIE scripter Steve Gerber informs us that it may be either one. The mambo is generally considered the more powerful, but depending on her age and experience, a houngan may "outrank" her. In that case, he would preside over the ritual.



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